

DOCKET NO.: ISIS-4723  
Application No.: 09/823,031  
Office Action Dated: July 15, 2003

PATENT  
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED  
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO  
37 CFR § 1.116

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 to 60 are pending in the application. Claims 22, 30, and 50 have been amended, claims 1 to 21, 28, 29, 40 to 49, 55, and 56 have been canceled, and no new claims have been added, herein. Following entry of the amendments, claims 22 to 27, 30 to 39, 50 to 54, and 57 to 60 will be pending in the application. Because the amendments remove issues for appeal, Applicants respectfully request entry thereof. MPEP § 714.13.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections of record in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

#### Alleged Obviousness

Claims 22 to 39 and 50 to 60 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,959,090 ("the Guzaev patent"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because the claimed subject matter would not have been obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art in view of the Guzaev patent.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to their representative, Matthew Grumbling, during the interview conducted August 20, 2003. Further to discussions that occurred during the interview, and without conceding the correctness of the rejection, claims 22 and 50 have been amended to recite that the conjugate group is a cholesterol, phospholipid, biotin, phenazine, phenanthridine, anthraquinone, acridine, fluorescein, rhodamine, coumarin, or dye. Support for the amendments is found in the specification as filed at, for example, page 11, line 32 to page 12, line 1. Since, as discussed during the interview, the claimed subject matter would not have been obvious in view of the Guzaev patent, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

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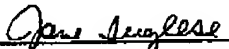
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**Conclusion**

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a complete and full response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, an early and favorable Action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: *September 4, 2003*

  
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